

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 DPW-01 PM-05 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01 INR-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 265

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6924

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, ICRC, GV

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ICRC VISIT TO GUINEA

REF: A) STATE 186662; B) CONAKRY 1369; C) STATE 181764

1. IN ACCORDANCE REF A MISOFF MET AUGUST 11 WITH ICRC OPERATIONS DIRECTOR JEAN-PIERRE HOCKE AND DELEGATE GENERAL FOR AFRICA FRANK SCHMIDT TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ICRC MISSION TO GUINEA.

2. AFTER BRIEF REVIEW OF GUINEA'S POOR RECORD OF COOPERATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS, INCLUDING FAILURE TO ADHERE TO THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL RED CROSS SOCIETY, OR TO ATTEND CONFERENCES ON HUMANITARIAN LAW DESPITE REPEATED INVITATIONS, ICRC REPS SAID THEY WOULD NOT WISH AN ICRC MISSION TO GUINEA TO BE SIMPLY "WINDOW-DRESSING", SERVING TO BURNISH THE GOG'S TARNISHED HUMANITARIAN IMAGE. ON THE OTHER HAND, ICRC COULD NOT FAIL TO SEIZE ANY VALID OPPORTUNITY TO ASSIST SUFFERING HUMAN BEINGS, AND TO RENEW ITS TIES WITH GUINEA. ACCORDINGLY, REPS EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUT'S INDICATION OF GOG'S WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE A
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HUMANITARIAN-ORIENTED DELEGATLD BE PURSUED. THEY WELCOMED U.S. ASSISTANCE IN INITIAL PHASES OF THIS EFFORT, IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER.

3. HOCKE PROPOSED THAT THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR IN CONAKRY (OR ANY SUITABLE AGENT DESIGNATED BY USG) APPROACH GUINEAN GOVERNMENT AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL, SUCH AS

PRIME MINISTER OR FOREIGN MINISTER, TO DETERMINE SERIOUSNESS OF BEAUVOGUI'S OFFER AND FURTHER DETAILS AS TO WHAT GOG HAS SPECIFICALLY IN MIND IN THIS CONNECTION. SHOULD IT DEVELOP THAT BEAUVOGUI'S OFFER WAS NOT SERIOUSLY FOUNDED, OR THAT GOG HAS NO REAL INTENTION OF PERMITTING MEANINGFUL CONTACTS IN THE HUMANITARIAN FIELD, APPROACH WOULD, OF COURSE, TERMINATE AT THAT POINT.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF AN INDICATION OF POSITIVE RECEPTIVITY GOG WERE EVIDENCED, U.S. REP MIGHT THEN PROCEED TO STATE THAT WE FELT A UNIQUELY QUALIFIED AND RESPECTED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THIS PURPOSE WOULD BE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, AND THAT WE HAD FURTHER BEEN AWARE FOR SOME TIME OF ICRC'S LONG-STANDING DESIRE TO RENEW A PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH GUINEA. WE FURTHER UNDERSTOOD THAT ACTING IN THIS SPIRIT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS INTENDED TO APPROACH THE GOG IN THE NEAR FUTURE FOR THE PURPOSE OF INITIATING A DIALOGUE.

5. SHOULD THIS CONVERSATION EMERGE FAVORABLY, HOCKE SAID, ICRC WOULD PROMPTLY TRANSMIT AN APPROPRIATE LETTER, PROBABLY TO THE GUINEAN FOREIGN MINISTER, IN ORDER TO RESUME CONTACTS. FOLLOWING THIS, AND AGAIN ASSUMING FAVORABLE RESPONSE, ICRC WOULD SEND AN EMISSARY TO CONAKRY AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE TIME. (ALTHOUGH INDICATING THAT THEIR INITIAL COMMUNICATION CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD LIKELY BE ADDRESSED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER, HOCKE SAID THAT ICRC WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM U.S. REP ANY INDICATIONS GUINEANS MIGHT GIVE HIM AS TO THEIR PREFERRED CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION IN THIS MATTER.)

6. COMMENT: AFTER INITIAL CHEWING ON PAST PROBLEMS WITH GUINEA, ICRC RECEPTIVITY TO IDEA WAS DEFINITELY UP-BEAT. DESIRE TO ESTABLISH MEANINGFUL EARLY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOG WAS MANIFEST. AT ONE POINT, HOCKE EVEN SPOKE OF POSSIBILITY OF INVITATION TO GUINEA TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE IN BUCHAREST IN OCTOBER, BUT THIS WAS DROPPED AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION AS TOO SOON TO BE REALISTIC. END COMMENT.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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